

## 'Panama in state of war with U.S.'

PANAMA CITY, Panama (Agencies) — The National Assembly of Representatives unanimously declared Friday that Panama was "in a state of war" with the United States and named Manuel Antonio Noriega head of government. "It is declared that the Republic of Panama is in a state of war while there is aggression against the people of Panama from the United States of America," said a resolution read by the assembly's general secretary, Omar Padilla. The resolution, read on national radio, also declared that Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler, was designated head of government and "maximum leader of the struggle for national liberation." There was no immediate indication what action Panama intended to take as a result of the declaration. In Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger told reporters: "This is a chaotic and nonsense. As far as we are concerned, there is no government in Panama anyway. For Noriega to be named head of a non-existent government, at least in the view of the United States government, is putting him in charge of nothing."

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## Crown Prince on working visit to Britain

LONDON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday began a working visit to Britain after visiting France and the United States where he met with his presidents and delivered messages from His Majesty King Hussein and reviewed Middle East developments and bilateral relations.

The Crown Prince arrived here from New York after talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the current situation in the Middle East and efforts to reach a comprehensive

and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The meeting was attended by the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Jordan's Permanent Delegate to the U.N. Abdullah Salah.

Earlier, the Crown Prince met with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and discussed their countries' position towards the current situation in the Mid-

dle East and efforts for peace in the region. The Crown Prince emphasised the need to mobilise international efforts to secure a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East based on guarantees for the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, Petra said. He also stressed the need to reach an Iran-Iraq peace agreement, which will reflect positively on the region's security and stability.

The Crown Prince also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and discussed with him the

situation in the Gulf region and international efforts to reach a peace agreement between Baghdad and Tehran.

The Crown Prince also held talks with the chairman and members of the Council on Foreign Relations and reviewed international efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Earlier in the week, the Crown Prince visited Washington and held talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior administration officials on Middle East peace efforts.

## CBJ ups dinar rate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will supply dollars to banks at slightly higher rates as part of its policy to stabilise the dinar, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday. It said the bank, in its first intervention in the market since Oct. 1, would sell dollars to banks for 675 fils as of Saturday to be resold at a maximum of 680 fils. The CBJ's foreign exchange funds have been boosted by the arrival of aid from other Arab countries.



Palestinians wearing overalls and masks parade through the town of Bir Zeit in the occupied West Bank.

## Nablus group resurfaces to belie Israeli army claim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An underground Palestinian group said by the Israeli army to have slain at least 16 alleged Arab informers has killed again, less than two weeks after the army said it had eliminated the band. Members of the Black Panther group, toured the casbah (market) in the West Bank town of Nablus Friday, announcing responsibility for Thursday's killing of Saudi Mohammed Bakri, 30, an alleged collaborator with Israel, residents said.

The killing came two days after the army lifted an 11-day curfew on the casbah, imposed Dec. 1 when troops shot dead Black Panther leader Imad Al Nasr and three of his lieutenants in a raid. After Nasr's death soldiers distributed leaflets saying that the Black Panthers had been eliminated, casbah residents said. Israel's military chief in the West Bank, Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, told reporters the next day that he had the group under control.

"I believe that in the future it

will continue to be quiet in this area," he said.

Hours after the curfew ended Tuesday, masked and uniformed youths marched through the casbah shouting Black Panther slogans and waving death to Arab collaborators with Israel.

On Friday the Panthers used megaphones, telling casbah residents and traders that before they killed Bakri he confessed to aiding Israeli secret police and black-mailing women to do the same, witnesses said.

In the city's Al Itihad hospital, Ahmad Mohammad Milhem, 33, died from injuries received Thursday, when he was beaten by masked youths in the village of Anin, some 40 kilometres north of Nablus.

Palestinian sources said Milhem was a suspected collaborator probably killed by activists from his own area.

Troops in the occupied Gaza Strip shot and wounded two Arab teenagers and a 70-year-old woman during clashes in Gaza City and nearby Jabalya Palesti-

nian refugee camp, hospitals said.

In the West Bank Jewish settlers rampaged through the village of Sira Al Shamaliya, firing automatic weapons and smashing the windows of villagers' cars, Palestinian sources said.

Surgeons at a Jerusalem hospital removed the eye of a two-year-old Allah Yusuf, wounded by a rubber bullet Thursday during clashes between Palestinian protesters and troops in the West Bank's Jalazoun refugee camp, relatives said.

Palestinians and Israelis demonstrated opposite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, demanding the reopening of universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, closed by military order for most of the two-year uprising.

The protesters carried placards recalling the Jewish people's traditional attachment to scripture and learning.

"Shame the people of the Book close libraries," the posters said in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

## Sakharov dies; Gorbachev says big loss for society

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Andrei D. Sakharov, a father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a courageous voice of Soviet dissent heard around the world, has died at age 68.

Vitaly I. Vorotnikov, a member of the Presidium of the Congress of People's Deputies, opened Friday's session with an announcement of Sakharov's death late Thursday night. He paid tribute to Sakharov, who once was regularly denounced in the official news media, as a scientist and public figure.

"All that he did was dictated by his sleepless conscience, his deep humanitarian convictions," said Vorotnikov, a member of the ruling Communist Party politburo and president of the Russian Federation.

President Mikhail Gorbachev then joined the congress, of which Sakharov was a member, in standing for a moment of silence.

The 2,250-seat congress formed a committee chaired by another lawmaker and Academy of Sciences member, Yevgeny M.

Primakov, to organise Sakharov's funeral, the official TASS news agency said.

Gorbachev said Sakharov's death was "a big loss, a very big loss."

"It was possible to agree or not to agree (with him) but he was a very sincere man," Gorbachev told reporters outside the Soviet parliament. "It is a very big loss for society."

Sakharov apparently was struck down by a heart attack in his study as he was preparing a speech on the ailing Soviet economy for delivery to the Congress of People's Deputies Friday.

Sakharov played a leading role in developing the first Soviet hydrogen bomb in 1953 but later gave up his career and became figurehead of the Soviet dissident movement.

"I respected him for the part that he was honest and open," leading politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev, often named by Sakharov as a danger to reform, told a Reuters reporter at the congress.

Another member of the politburo, Vitaly Vorotnikov, told the

deputies that "everything Sakharov did was dictated by his keen conscience and profound humanitarian convictions."

Gorbachev clashed with the 1975 Nobel Peace laureate at the congress Tuesday but in 1986 had personally ordered his release from six years of internal exile in Gorky.

Outside Sakharov's apartment on Moscow's main Inner Ring road, men and women wept openly when told he had died. Candles and flowers were placed in the snow after his body was carried out and driven away in a white ambulance.

Close colleagues among the reformist faction in the congress and friends from the dissident movement he headed in the face of fierce harassment from the authorities during the 1970s said he was irreplaceable as a symbol of struggle.

"We never had a moral leader at this level. His death is a major tragedy for democracy," said liberal journalist editor Vitaly Korotich. "I don't know how we will continue without his absolute integrity," declared scientist



Andrei Sakharov  
Roald Sagdeyev.

There were conflicting reports on when and where the funeral would take place. Poet Vladimir Korotich, a friend of the family, said Sakharov would be buried Monday at a quiet suburban Moscow cemetery, at the request of his widow Yelena Bonner.

But a Soviet official said the Academy of Sciences, which Sakharov represented in the congress, might arrange for a lying-in-state and burial at a central Moscow cemetery where other top scientists are interred.

## Moscow to cut military spending

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union will cut military spending by 8.2 per cent to 70.98 billion roubles (\$114 billion) next year, a senior army officer said Friday.

Colonel General Nikolai Chervov, head of a department of the general staff, told a news conference the cuts were part of a programme of shifting the Soviet armed forces from an offensive to a defensive posture.

The number of men in the armed forces as of January 1990 would be 3.99 million, according to a Defence Ministry statement released simultaneously.

"The budget should make it possible for the state to maintain reasonable military sufficiency and also improve living conditions for the army," Chervov said.

Military spending last year amounted to 77.3 billion roubles (\$129 billion), according to figures released for the first time in June.

NATO takes new course

In Brussels, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said Friday it would strengthen its political role in the world, assuming a new mantle as East-West military tensions faded under the influence of reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

The 16 alliance foreign ministers said at the end of a two-day meeting they would also consider bringing forward a meeting of the 35 European and North American states that signed the landmark Helsinki final act.

They forged a common position for East-West talks on an "open skies" treaty allowing surveillance flights over East and West Europe and said NATO was wrestling with problems like the environment, terrorism and drug trafficking.

"We... began taking a look at... new tasks for NATO in a changing Europe," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told a news conference. He outlined proposals to give the alliance a new political role earlier this week in West Berlin.

"We think it important that we consider the global issues that can constitute a threat," he added.

"Our vision of a Europe made whole and free has finally come in sight," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said.

Baker said the changes in Eastern Europe were not irreversible, although the alliance would do everything it could to encourage political and economic reforms.

## Palestinians alert after assault on Syrian base

SIDON (AP) — A Palestinian guerrilla commander Friday brushed aside disclaimers by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that its men had stormed a Syrian army base in South Lebanon and insisted that his fighters carried out the attack.

According to police reports, 15 people were killed and 43 wounded Thursday when Palestinian fighters from Fatah group, the largest PLO faction, attacked Syria's military intelligence headquarters in South Lebanon at the village of Rmalieh.

The operation was carried out by Palestinians. No Lebanese took part in the attack, said the Fatah commander, who identified himself only by his nom-de-guerre of Abu Maher.

"No one knew about it at PLO headquarters in Tunis," he said in an interview in Sidon's 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp 40 kilometres south of Beirut and the main PLO base in Lebanon.

The Palestinians in the camp

day, although there was no visible indication that the Syrians planned any retaliatory assault.

Syrian officials in Damascus made no comment on Thursday's fighting. But that clash threatened to undermine efforts to end a six-year rift between the PLO leadership and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as part of a campaign to achieve long-elusive Arab unity before convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Some 150 of Abu Maher's fighters carried out the attack on the Syrian installation five kilometres north of Sidon to free comrades held there.

The attackers stormed and ransacked the base, set back from the coastal highway linking Beirut and South Lebanon.

Police said the dead included four Syrians and five Palestinians. Police said a Communist Party guerrilla, two leftists and three members of the Nasserite militia that has ruled Sidon since Lebanon's civil war broke out in April

1975 were also killed at a checkpoint north of Sidon when they clashed with the returning Fatah fighters.

The guerrillas, led by Abdul Raouf Zaarour, freed 15 prisoners held by the Syrians including Lebanese and Fatah members in the two-hour clash at Rmalieh.

Sidon police said the attackers also recovered a shipment of Fatah arms the Syrians had confiscated a week ago.

Abu Maher declined comment on the arms, but he said the assault was prepared and executed by Fatah commanders in South Lebanon without first consulting the PLO leadership.

A statement issued by PLO headquarters in Tunis Thursday condemned the attack, without explicitly denying Fatah members might have been involved.

The statement said the PLO had ordered an investigation in collaboration with the other factions in Sidon to identify the "authors and commanders" of the attack.

## S. African activists released

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's appeal court Friday ordered the release of five leading black activists jailed for between five and 12 years at the end of a marathon treason trial a year ago.

A panel of five judges in Bloemfontein ruled that Supreme Court Judge Kees Dijkhorst made a mistake when he dismissed one of his assistants during the 37-month trial.

As a result the five, including United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders Patrick "Terror" Lekota, 41, and Popo Molefe, 37, should be freed immediately from Robben Island prison near Cape Town, they said.

Political analysts said the trial was the most important since 1964, when African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela was jailed for life in the same Pretoria courtroom.

Lekota was jailed for 12 years and Molefe for 10 after evidence by 278 witnesses about their roles in a nationwide black uprising against white rule from 1984 to 1986.

## French troops take over Comoros; mercenaries leave

PARIS (Agencies) — French troops landed Friday at Moroni airport in the troubled Comoros Islands, taking control of the country's security in what the Defence Ministry called a "military assistance mission" requested by the Comoros government.

Four hours later, French mercenary Bob Denard and about 25 other European soldiers of fortune who trained and led the 600-man Comoran Presidential Guard boarded a South African military plane and left for South Africa, the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

The mercenaries had controlled the island nation, a former French colony, since the country's president was assassinated Nov. 26.

A military spokesman said the French troops came from the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, 300 kilometres away, in an operation under the French-Comoran defence cooperation agreement.

On Thursday, AFP reported that Denard was willing to relinquish control if the safety of his men was guaranteed and if he and

his fellow mercenaries were given an unspecified payment. It was unclear Friday if those demands were honoured.

The Johannesburg Star newspaper reported that South African authorities planned to issue Denard a temporary residence permit on condition he agreed to leave that country within a month.

Five other mercenaries and their families left on a scheduled flight to Paris Thursday night. Most Comorians believe the mercenaries themselves killed the man they were supposed to protect but Denard has denied this.

France and South Africa, the two countries with most influence in these volcanic islands northwest of Madagascar, suspended aid to the Comoros after Abdallah was killed and gently negotiated the mercenaries' peaceful departure.

South Africa's diplomatic representative in Moroni, Marco Boni, said the mercenaries, who are mainly French, would be allowed to stay in South Africa for a couple of days but would not be given asylum there.

French military spokesman

Colonel Philippe Charrier said the Comoros' interim president, Said Mohamed Djohar, sent a message to Paris Thursday night requesting French aid to reorganise the security forces and maintain law and order once the mercenaries had left.

Djohar's civilian government was virtually paralysed by the mercenary takeover and diplomats said Djohar only agreed to invite in the French after receiving assurances that they had negotiated a deal with Denard.

A group of about 190 French paratroopers left Mayotte by plane and helicopter Friday morning and took over from the mercenaries in a ceremony at Moroni international airport.

Charrier said up to 50 of them would be attached as officers and instructors to the local security forces while the remainder maintained law and order.

One of the last acts of the departing mercenaries was to release Moïstapha Said Cheikh, a Marxist-Leninist politician who was jailed for life in 1985 for his alleged part in a plot to overthrow the government.



## Aden opens up political system

ADEN (R) — Weathered red stars still line the roads of Aden and posters of Lenin glare at passers-by, but a local version of glasnost is bringing change to South Yemen, the Arab World's most leftist state.

In the last few months the country, at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, has begun relaxing internal controls after years of one-party rule.

Debate and criticism now appear in state-controlled newspapers. Borders have been opened to travel abroad. By the end of the month the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) is due to announce an overhaul of its Soviet-style political system.

"They have found glasnost in their big-brother countries in Eastern Europe and they are now following suit," said a Western diplomat.

South Yemen has had a Soviet-style economy since independence from Britain in 1967. With per capita income around \$500 a year it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Diplomats say South Yemen's circumstances have an uncanny similarity to those in East Germany, despite the disparity in

income.

For years both countries have suffered a brain drain to capitalist neighbours where the same language is spoken.

Both have acute economic problems, and wealthy neighbours and exiled citizens have offered to make hefty investments if reform is introduced.

And like East Germany, South Yemen has a capitalist counterpart several times its size interested in unity.

In Aden, where the sale of foreign magazines and newspapers is severely restricted, citizens follow events in East Europe closely through foreign radio newscasts.

In mid-November, about a week after the Berlin Wall was ruptured, South Yemen opened up its borders for visa-free travel to North Yemen. At the end of the month it agreed on a plan for a merger between the two states after public elections.

Diplomats say there seems to be little popular support in South Yemen for the doctrinaire socialism of the past.

The country's leaders, many of them fervent leftists in earlier years, now face the challenge of

steering through the waters of reform and unity without losing their grip on power.

According to party members, the YSP is to meet before the end of this month to approve a political reform plan. The plan, first published in July, still refers to YSP as playing a "vanguard" role.

But diplomats say that events since then in Central Europe are likely to have strengthened the hands of the reformers.

In Aden, it is the pictures of the "four martyrs" — party leaders killed in a bloody power struggle in January, 1986 — that adorn streets and government

offices, not portraits of the current leaders.

Diplomats say the lack of emphasis on the current leadership suggests the country is being run by consensus.

Yemenis say that since September the level of criticism and debate allowed in the government-owned press has risen sharply, although there has been no direct criticism of the party. Hot topics have been the country's detention laws, continued state ownership of housing, the private sector's role in medicine and the government's handling of aid after the February floods in Hadramaut province.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Cuba, Qatar establish ties

HAVANA (R) — Cuba and the Gulf state of Qatar have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, an official statement released in Havana said Thursday. The agreement was signed by the ambassadors of the two countries at the United Nations. Cuba already has diplomatic relations with several Arab and Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, North and South Yemen and Iran and Iraq.

#### Group threatens to kill Pope

BEIRUT (R) — A Muslim extremist group in Lebanon has threatened to kill Pope John Paul because it said he supported army chief General Michel Aoun. "The organisation of Defending the Oppressed announces that it has issued a death sentence against the Pope of Rome who became a spiritual guide for the crusaders in (Christian) east Beirut," it said in a statement sent to an international news agency in mainly Muslim West Beirut. "We will carry out the death sentence against the Pope of Rome sooner or later and God will be our witness." The group, which began the hand-written Arabic statement with a verse from the Koran, issued a similar threat when plans were announced in September for a Papal peace trip to Lebanon.

## Iranians vote for 9 new MPs

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranians converged Friday on polling stations in Tehran and five other cities to choose nine parliament deputies in special elections regarded as a test to President Hashemi Rafsanjani's effort to open up the Islamic Republic.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported an "enthusiastic turnout" despite the cold weather and "steady drizzle" across the country.

The report, monitored in Nicosia, did not provide a figure for Friday's voters, a fraction of the country's general elections' electorate of 24 million.

Sixty-four candidates, many of them hardline opponents of Rafsanjani and his so-called pragmatist policies, are contesting the nine seats, four in Tehran and five in other cities.

IRNA said that in Tehran alone, 2,500 polling booths were set up for the elections in addition to 260 mobile stations for those unable to commute.

It said the stations opened across the country at 7 a.m. (0330 GMT), and were scheduled to close at 5 p.m. (1330 GMT).

The country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, cast his ballot at a mobile station in Tehran, while Rafsanjani voted at a polling booth, Tehran Radio reported.

## Quiet diplomacy at GCC summit could help Gulf peace

DUBAI (R) — Sabre-rattling from Iran and Iraq is drowning out the quieter sound of diplomacy in the Gulf, Arab and Iranian officials and analysts say.

A four-day meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) heads of state starts in Muscat Sunday.

The sources do not predict any breakthrough at the GCC meeting on the still unresolved Iran-Iraq conflict, which embroiled the Gulf region in war from 1980 to 1988.

The annual summit is normally used by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain to confirm their political and economic solidarity.

But a communiqué from GCC leaders favouring neither Iran nor Iraq but continuing to press for an acceptable peace could go a long way to hold a 15-month ceasefire, the sources said.

Iran believes the Saudis can help break its post-war stalemate with Iraq.

The security of the Gulf can only be ensured through participation of all regional states, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said this month.

adding that Saudi Arabia had an obvious role to play.

The GCC, however, thinks Iran should do more to break the diplomatic ice with Saudi Arabia.

"Iran has improved relations with most GCC countries but there is still a weak point in its approach, which is its dispute with the Saudis," GCC assistant political secretary Saif Ibn Hashil Al Maskari said in October.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran last year after sustained political and religious attacks from Tehran.

Tehran has grown less sensitive over Islamic issues than it was in the days of Ayatollah Khomeini but Riyadh, which has made strenuous efforts to make Lebanese peace talks succeed, does not trust Iran's support of the radical Lebanese Hizbollah Shi'ite Muslims.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last month said peace was nearer than anyone thought.

This month, however, Iraq tested new rocket technology and threatened that it might use the missiles against Iran.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in a tour of war-devastated border areas said the priority was economic reconstruction.

But the week before the GCC summit Iran has put on its biggest naval exercise in the Gulf for a decade.

The foreign ministers of both Iraq and Iran held U.N. talks this week without breaking the stalemate.

Iran demands Iraq withdraw its troops from about 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

Iraq demands that peace talks must focus on sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab Waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf.

Iran fears that the summit could reiterate GCC support for Iraq's claim to the Shatt.

In the last two weeks, Rafsanjani has sent aides bearing messages to all GCC states save Saudi Arabia and Oman. Oman has always had close ties with Iran.

A senior GCC official said the messages were friendly and the GCC had much common ground with Iran, including security. "I am confident both sides (Iran and Iraq) want peace," he said.

## Algerian revolutionary leader returns from 23-year exile

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian revolutionary hero Hocine Ait Ahmed returned home Friday from 23 years in exile to a rapturous welcome from thousands of supporters.

Tears streamed down his face as Ait Ahmed stepped off the flight from Paris to face a newly democratic Algeria where his opposition party, Socialist Forces Front, was legalised last month.

"I am extremely happy," Ait Ahmed told reporters. "We are coming in a serene manner, but determined to help build a democratic Algeria."

Ait Ahmed, 63, was a founding member of Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN) which led an eight-year war of independence from France and has ruled the country since 1962 with an iron grip.

Ait Ahmed split from the FLN in 1963 after a dispute with former President Ahmed Ben Bella. Condemned to death in 1964, he escaped from prison two years later and has since lived in Switzerland.

Women unladen and young supporters from his native Kabylia region east of Algiers

swamped Houari Boumedienne International Airport terminal.

Organisers estimated the flag-and banner-waving crowd, which arrived at the airport early in the morning in a caravan of buses from Algiers and Kabylia, at 10,000.

This would make it one of the largest demonstrations in Algeria since youth riots last year launched the country on the road to multi-party democracy.

"Long live Algerian democracy," Ait Ahmed told a brief rally outside the airport.

His movement split earlier this year when a rival faction led by Yahya Abdul Hafiz broke away and Ait Ahmed said his priorities

would be to reconstruct the party, known by its French initials FFS.

He would assemble other democratic forces with a similar platform stressing recognition for the non-Arab Berber culture, multi-party democracy and a liberal brand of socialism.

Much of his popular appeal, concentrated among the Kabylie Berbers, stems from his early espousal of political and cultural pluralism.

"He is a great leader of the revolution who has stayed faithful to its principles," said Ali Yahya Abdel Nour, president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights.

## U.S. appeals to Khartoum to save men from gallows

KHARTOUM (R) — The United States has appealed to Sudan's military leader to save several men from the gallows after special courts sentenced

them to death this month, Western diplomats said Friday.

U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Jim Cheeck handed a message to Foreign Minister Ali Sahloni Wednesday asking General Omar Hassan Al Bashir to spare their lives, they said.

"It was more than just an appeal—it was strongly worded and implicitly warned that relations between the two countries will be seriously jeopardised if the men are hanged," one diplomat said.

Special military courts this month condemned to the gallows Dr. Maamoun Mohammad Hussein, alleged organiser of one-week doctors' strike in November, and three men found guilty of smuggling foreign currency.

Bashir's 15-man military junta which seized power in a June 30 coup, blamed the doctors' walk-out on Communists and vowed to crush what it called attempts to hinder unity and progress.

The general, who imposed an indefinite state of emergency on Sudan when he took power, has indicated he was opposed to clemency.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has also asked Bashir to reprieve Hussein on humanitarian grounds.

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15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:30 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News summary  
18:05 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:10 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... News in Arabic  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Consumer's Guide  
22:25 ..... Local programme  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 ..... Orages D'ete  
19:40 ..... News in French  
19:45 ..... About animals  
19:50 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Natural Phenomena  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Just the Ten of Us  
21:10 ..... Saturday Variety show  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Feature film: "Christmas comes to Willow Creek"

**PRAYER TIMES**  
05:00 ..... Fajr  
06:23 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:30 ..... Dhuhr

**CHURCHES**  
14:15 ..... 'Aar  
16:30 ..... Maghreb  
18:00 ..... 'Isha

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**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Some clouds appear at different altitudes and winds will be westerly light

to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 5/18  
Aqaba ..... 10/24  
Dera'a ..... 3/16  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 80 per cent, Aqaba 56 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**  
Dr. Walid Sahawneh ..... 779997  
Dr. Abdul Majid Al-Shar ..... 741405  
Dr. Daud Al-Samirani ..... 689335  
Dr. Nabil Al-Masadi ..... 613338  
Fina pharmacy ..... 651912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nagash pharmacy ..... 626672  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 630730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649445  
Simelani pharmacy ..... 637660

**EMERGENCIES**  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 893390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 603800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101

**HOSPITALS**  
**AMMAN:**  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. .... 646281/6  
Al-Khalil Maternity, J. Amn. .... 646412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 646412  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 644714  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Mustashfi Hospital ..... 6672219  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666173/7  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Rafiq, Al-Muhajir ..... 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775117/26  
Arzy, Marka ..... 891617/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 66240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
**ZARQA:**  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Bagdad (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:00 ..... London (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Paris (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
20:10 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
04:15 ..... Beirut (ME)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.  
Apples ..... 420 / 380  
Bananas ..... 450 / 400  
Beans (Mushammar) ..... 400 / 350  
Cucumbers ..... 250 / 200  
Cabbage ..... 150 / 120  
Carrot ..... 210 / 180  
Cauliflower ..... 200 / 160  
Couscous (large) ..... 250 / 200  
Couscous (small) ..... 400 / 350  
Dates ..... 320 / 280  
Eggplant ..... 160 / 120  
Garlic ..... 850 / 750  
Grapefruit ..... 240 / 220  
Lemon ..... 220 / 180  
Marrow (large) ..... 120 / 80  
Marrow (small) ..... 210 / 160  
Onion (dry) ..... 280 / 240  
Onion (green) ..... 180 / 140  
Orange ..... 220 / 170  
Orange (Shamsi) ..... 320 / 270  
Pepper (hot) ..... 260 / 220  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 240 / 180  
Potato ..... 280 / 220  
Radish ..... 150 / 120  
Sage ..... 500 / 400  
Spinach ..... 120 / 80  
Tomatoes ..... 400 / 300



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**PRINCE MOHAMMAD AT PRIME MINISTRY:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, called on Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday and wished his government success in its task. (Petra)

**AL AZHAR ANNIVERSARY:** Greater Amman Municipality will take part in a seminar organised by Al Azhar University in Cairo Saturday marking the university's 25th anniversary. The three-day seminar will be attended by Fairouz Masoud from the municipality's planning department. (Petra)

**U.K. THEATRE GROUP IN AMMAN:** Theatre lovers in Jordan now have the chance to enjoy a thrilling performance by the British Cate Theatre Company which has been touring Asian and European countries. The famous group will perform from Dec. 18 through Dec. 20 at Amman Plaza Hotel will present Francis Durbridge's thriller House Guest in evening performances at the hotel. The group has toured Arab and foreign countries and the Gulf region was included in its latest itinerary. (J.T.)

**ARAB LAWYERS FEDERATION:** The Jordanian Bar Association took part in the meetings of the permanent office of the Arab Lawyers Federation in Sana'a. The four-day meeting reviewed a political report on Arab political scene. (Petra)

**SUHEIMAT MEETS TUNISIAN ENVOY:** Greater Amman Municipality Mayor Ali Suheimat Thursday discussed with Tunisian ambassador to Jordan cooperation in municipal services between Amman and Tunis. (Petra)

**BAHRAINI NATIONAL DAY:** On the occasion of his country's national day, the Bahraini ambassador to Jordan, Ibrahim Al Ibrahim, is hosting a reception at the Regency Palace Hotel Saturday, between 6:30 and 8 p.m.

**'OH COWARD' RAFFLE:** Hotel Jordan Intercontinental in cooperation with British Airways, presented the play "Oh Coward" from Dec. 9 to Dec. 14. The raffle was drawn Thursday night. The first prize — a British Airways return ticket club class Amman-London-Amman — was won by raffle number 110; The second prize — a week-long free car hire anywhere in the world — donated by Budget Rentacar — was won by raffle number 031; and the third prize — dinner for two in the Crown Rotisserie of Jordan Intercontinental — was won by raffle number 064. Congratulations to all the lucky winners. To claim the prize, please bring the programme and give it to Mr. Warrick James, food and beverage manager at the hotel.



King receives U.S. congressman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Received at the Royal Court Thursday Mr Wayne Owens, member of the United States Congress and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth. The U.S. congressman was also received by Speaker of the Lower House of

Parliament Suleiman Arar with whom he reviewed U.S. parliamentary affairs and Middle East issues. The two sides also discussed the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, with Arar referring to Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands (Petra).

## Lower House to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament has been called for a meeting Saturday to decide on a number of matters on its agenda, according to an announcement by the House Speaker Suleiman Arar.

Arar said that the agenda includes the election of committees

to deal with public freedoms and citizens rights, agricultural affairs, environmental health safety, education, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and the Badia Affairs Committee.

He said that the House members will also discuss other issues

including replies to enquiries by deputies about offering parliamentary salaries for one month in support of the Palestinian people's uprising and another bill by 14 members to define the causes behind the deteriorating financial and economic situation in Jordan.

## Yarmouk quiet after student clashes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The situation in and around Yarmouk University in Irbid was reported quiet following clashes between students within and outside the university compound over the past two days.

A university spokesman said that the local authorities have started an investigation into the affair which also resulted in damages to a university-organised exhibition.

The spokesman said that on

Tuesday evening, two students were attacked by an identified group outside the university campus while three were attacked within the campus following the conclusion of an exhibition which displayed items on the Palestinian intifada marking the uprising's second anniversary.

The spokesman noted that an unidentified group entered the exhibition hall and damaged its contents.

The university spokesman did

not report any injuries.

He said the university will pursue the investigation into the affair and will not hesitate in imposing strict penalties on those elements which try to tamper with national unity or distract students' attention from academic duties.

All preachers banned from mosques reinstated.

## Ministry prepares training programmes for preachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr has given instructions to reinstate all the preachers which have been banned from giving sermons at mosques, according to a report published in Al Dustour daily Thursday.

Faqr has instructed the preachers to discuss all issues which would contribute to the delivery of the message of Islam and its teachings.

"A Muslim who wants to serve his regions should not be kept away from this circle and it is imperative that the emptiness left by others who are less educated or religious should be filled," Faqr said.

He added that "the period we are witnessing now is characterised by change and Islam should have a role in this change to prove its ability to contribute to this change on a larger scale and with better results."

During the meeting held at the ministry, Faqr also announced that his ministry was preparing detailed programmes for providing training to staff employed in various Islamic and Sharia (Islamic Law) centres as well as centres for training mosque preachers.

Faqr instructed the heads of departments in his ministry to strictly abide by regulations and

also to help promote the spirit of democracy and parliamentary life which has been restored to the Kingdom.

In answer to a question over the extent of coordination between him and the Islamic movement to participate in the government, Faqr said: "The concept of participation by the Islamic Movement was not rejected by them as a rule; the dispute was over the kind of ministries they would assume."

He said that his participation in both the legislative and executive authority, "will be more beneficial and it is necessary that we become more realistic and stop dreaming."



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Thursday receives the Egyptian parliamentary delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

## Egyptian parliamentarians end visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A five member Egyptian parliamentary delegation Friday wound up a two-day visit to Jordan and left for home after holding talks with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar and Parliament members.

The delegation which groups heads of various political affiliations in Egypt reviewed parliamentary life in the Arab World in general and proposed the establishment of a pan-Arab parliament that can meet periodically and decide on matters related to cooperation and coordination among the various parliaments of the Arab World.

Dr. Mustafa Kamel, a member of the delegation and head of the Egyptian Liberal Party, stressed the importance of regular meetings among parliamentarians from Arab states and said such practice "can bring views closer together over matters of different nature and on matters of concern to the whole Arab Nation."

Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Socialist Labour Party, said that the Egyptian political parties were delighted to see Jordan returning to free political and parliamentary life, and noted that the Egyptian delegation had come to offer congratulations to the Jordanian people for this

achievement.

He also called for continued exchanges of views among Arab parliamentarians on all matters of mutual concern.

For his part, Arar said that Jordan can only take pride in the achievements of the Egyptian parliament and can benefit from the experiments of parliamentary life and political parties in Egypt.



Badran meets writers

AMMAN — Board members of the Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) called on Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday to congratulate him on forming a new government (Petra photo)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- \* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- \* A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* An art exhibition by Khaled Msaal at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- \* An art exhibition marking the second anniversary of the intifada at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- \* A book exhibition at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- \* The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- \* Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abbas Nahla at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.

### SEMINAR

- \* A seminar (in Arabic) entitled "restructuring the national thought" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- \* A German film entitled "Tadellöser" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

## Khalaf receives visiting North Yemeni delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting North Yemeni delegation met in Amman Thursday with Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf and said later that North Yemen is trying to benefit from Jordan's experiment in water and sewerage fields.

The head of the Yemeni delegation, Mohammad Al Fasil, discussed with Khalaf various aspects of cooperation between the two countries in water management and later met with the ministry's Secretary General Mu'taz Al Bilbeisi for similar discussions.

Bilbeisi briefed the visitors on the ministry's water programmes in the Kingdom and current endeavours to exploit under ground water resources.

The North Yemeni delegation,

which arrived here Thursday, is spending a week in the country touring a number of water and sewerage projects.

### CORRECTION

The Jordan Times, due to an inadvertent error, quoted Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat that the municipality's budget for 1990 will be JD 9.3 million, down from JD 9.6 million in 1989.

The report, which appeared in the paper's Thursday-Friday edition, should have read that salaries to municipality employees in the coming year will amount to JD 9.3 million since the municipality is still in the process of preparing its 1990 fiscal budget. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

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بيروت - لبنان

1989

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS SARVATH

THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION AND CARE OF THE HANDICAPPED

IN THE AMMAN BRANCH

SEND BY THE 15TH OF DECEMBER 1989 AT 10:30 A.M.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

CHRISTMAS CARDS

HANDMADE

GIFT IDEAS

STYLISH



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جوردان تايمز جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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## Welcome news

THE resumption of direct flights between Cairo and Damascus by Egyptian and Syrian national carriers is symptomatic of the warming up of relations between the two Arab countries. Indeed, the momentous decision to reestablish direct flights between the two capitals was taken following direct intervention by Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Hafez Al Assad. In the wake of this one additional step on the road to complete normalisation of relations between the two countries, Egypt is expected to send Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid to hold talks with President Assad on ways and means to accelerate the burgeoning brotherly relations between the two countries. The next step would certainly be to hold a summit between the two leaders to remove the remnants of differences between the two countries.

This is of course a most welcome news. The Arab countries cannot keep still their inter-relations or their international relations in the wake of the rapid changes that are sweeping across the entire world. Otherwise the Arab World will be passed by the era of reformation, whether in its domestic or international dimensions, and left behind to stew in its own juice. With the rapid realignment between the various axes of power in the international arena, the Arab World must concentrate more and more on inter-Arab relations in order to secure a firm place for the Arabs on the map of international relations. In the final analysis the Arab countries would need a two-pronged approach to the changing world around them: One introvert, in the sense that a more concentrated effort be made to put inter-Arab relations on a higher plateau than the one that unhappily still exist; and the other extrovert, in the sense that it places the Arab World's relations with other countries or groups of countries on the basis of new criteria.

Seen against this backdrop, the warming up of relations between Cairo and Damascus is a trend that necessitates duplication elsewhere in the Arab World, notably between Damascus and Baghdad. There is no doubt that once Egyptian-Syrian relations are on a new footing, the spin off results would have a great bearing not only on the Damascus-Baghdad relations but elsewhere in the Arab World. The successful visit of President Mubarak to Libya Tuesday to turn a new page in his relation with President Muammar Qadhafi has to be seen in the context of the rapid improvement in the inter-Arab relations.

The upshot of all these changes, within and outside the Arab World, is that inter-Arab rivalry and animosity is a "luxury" that the Arab countries can ill afford. What is at stake is their survival and competitive will in an increasingly competitive world.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday referred to Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinian people under its rule and called on the international community and the United Nations to take speedy measures to end Zionist terrorism. The paper noted that the Israeli authorities have been coming up with different forms of intimidation and repression against the defenceless population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a bid to suppress their will and to subdue their endeavours and struggle aimed at achieving freedom. The paper referred in particular to Israel's latest practice of forcing the Arab citizens to remove all slogans painted on the walls and along the streets denouncing the occupation and calling on people to maintain the struggle for freedom. The paper said that the Israelis spare no effort in finding the means to prove the Arab people and are relentless in pursuing acts of repression to force the Arab people to succumb to Zionist wishes. The paper said that the international community and all peace loving people of the world should put an end to Israel's atrocities and crimes which violate all norms and international principles.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday attacks the United States for its latest hostile statements against the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular. Mahmood Rimawi refers to Washington's outcry over the Iraqi launching of an Iraqi rocket, and says that the new weapon can by no means threaten the United States or its allies, but is intended as a means to defend Iraq and the Arab Nation against external dangers. The writer mocks Washington's claim that the rocket causes a military imbalance in the area and criticises American stance with regard to Iraq which has been building up its rocket arsenal and stockpiling nuclear weapons and collaborating with the South African regime in total defiance of all international laws and principles. The writer also notes that Washington's main purpose of raising the outcry is justified by its own ideology that the Arabs must not be in a position to defend themselves and that the United States must not allow the Arabs to become superior to Israel in military terms so that they would never be able to liberate their usurped lands. The writer says that instead of exercising its role as a superpower to establish peace in the world, the United States is now displaying its total bias towards Israel and openly supports its acts of aggression and its campaign against the Arab Nation.

Al Eastour daily on Friday echoed statements by His Majesty King Hussein in which he replied to Israel's continued campaigns against Jordan by reaffirming the Kingdom's determination to adhere to its position with regard to the Palestine question and the PLO. The paper also referred to Israel's propaganda campaign against this country noting that the Kingdom will remain fighting in the same trench alongside the whole Arab Nation, and in support of the PLO and the Palestinian people in the face of all conspiracies and external aggression. Jordan, the paper said, will continue to abort Israel's dream of achieving greater Israel and will continue the struggle against the occupation by all available means.

# Presidents' answers don't always answer

By Andrei Sakharov

The writer, a Soviet scientist and human rights activist, died of a heart attack Thursday.

MOSCOW — There is of course no alternative to Mikhail Gorbachev as leader of the Soviet Union in this decisive moment in its history. I have said this many times in many meetings, and have watched Mr. Gorbachev's face light up with joy and triumph when I repeated these words in his presence. It was Mr. Gorbachev who, in just four years, initiated many decisions that completely changed the situation in the Soviet Union, and the psychology of its people. Of course, history has pushed our country towards these decisions, but Mr. Gorbachev's role must not be overlooked.

At the same time, I do not idealise Mr. Gorbachev personally nor believe that he is doing all that is necessary. And I believe it is very dangerous to concentrate unlimited powers in the hands of one man, as Mr. Gorbachev has tried to do.

In the course of the last year, my concern over the general line of Mr. Gorbachev's domestic policies has increased. I have been worried by the enormous gap between words and deeds in economics, politics and society. Economic reform should be based on changing the structure of property ownership in agriculture and industry, the liquidation of the power in the hands of the party and the state, and ending the corruption of the ministries. Such reforms have not yet begun. I am worried by Mr. Gorbachev's obvious desire to obtain unlimited power. Worrysome as well is the way he consistently

leans not towards those progressive forces who actually support perestroika but towards those who are merely politically obedient and controllable, even when they are also reactionary. This shows itself in a variety of situations. In the difficult problem of outposts Soviet Union nationalities, for example, Mr. Gorbachev shows a negative attitude towards the politically recalcitrant Armenians and Balts.

In the social area, I am worried by the lack of any real changes for the better at almost all levels. This lack of change has cost Mr. Gorbachev popularity among some segments of society. His "anti-popularity" may be measured by the popular success of Boris Yeltsin. I respect Mr. Yeltsin, but he is a person of a different caliber from Mr. Gorbachev. His popularity is the result of being perceived as the current regime's opposition, and as its "victim." This explains his phenomenal success — he garnered nearly 90 per cent of the Moscow vote in the recent elections to the newly created Congress of People's Deputies.

I decided that a frank talk with Mr. Gorbachev, without witnesses, would be very important. While the Congress of People's Deputies was meeting this spring, I told him one morning that I wanted to speak to him, one-on-one.

All that day I was on pins and needles. After the evening session, I reminded one of Mr. Gorbachev's secretaries of my request. He returned a few minutes later and said Mr. Gorbachev was speaking with members of a Georgian delegation, it would take a long time and it would probably be better to postpone the meeting to the next morning. I asked him to tell Mr.

Gorbachev that I would wait. I took a chair not far from the door to the room where he was. I could see the enormous hall of the Palace of Congresses, shadowy and empty, and the guards at the distant doors.

About half an hour later, Mr. Gorbachev came out, but with him was his close aide, Anatoli Lukyanov. Mr. Lukyanov had not been part of my plans, but nothing could be done about it. Mr. Gorbachev looked tired, and I probably did as well. We moved three chairs to the corner of the stage and sat at the table of the Presidium. Mr. Gorbachev was very serious throughout the conversation. His usual smile for me — half kindly, half condescending — never appeared.

I said: "Mikhail Sergeyevich! It is not for me to tell you how serious things are in the country, how dissatisfied people are and how everyone expects things to get even worse. There is a crisis of trust in the country towards the leadership and the party. Your personal authority and popularity are down to zero. People cannot wait any longer with nothing but promises. A middle course in situations like this is almost impossible."

"The country and you personally are at a crossroads — either speed up the process of change all the way, or try to keep the administrative command system with all of its qualities."

"In the first case you must use the support of the 'left'; you can be sure that there will be many brave and energetic people you can count on. In the second case, you know for yourself whose support you will have, but you will never be forgiven the attempt at perestroika."

Mr. Gorbachev replied: "I stand firmly on the position of

perestroika. I am tied to that forever. But I am against hopping around, panicking, hurrying. We have seen many 'big leaps,' and the results are always tragedy and backtracking. I know everything that is being said about me. But I am convinced that the people will understand my line."

I told him: "The Congress is not deciding the main political task — all power to the Soviets. That is, the liquidation of the inequality of the double powers of the party and the Soviets. There must be a decree on power, which will guarantee the Congress the full range of legislative power and the right to promote the basic people in charge. Only then will we have power of the people, freedom from the tricks of the apparatus, which in fact makes policy now — both in legislation and in selection of people. The elected Supreme Soviet is not competent enough or capable of doing the work. The country is still run by the same people, the same system of ministries and agencies, and the Supreme Soviet is almost powerless."

Mr. Gorbachev said: "The Congress cannot deal with all the laws — there are too many of them. Therefore we need a constantly working Supreme Soviet. But you, the Moscow delegates, wanted to play at democracy, and as a result many people we need did not get into the Supreme Soviet. We had planned to give them positions in the commissions and committees. We spoiled many things. But we will try nevertheless to fix what we can."

I said: "I'm very concerned that the only political result of the Congress is your now unlimited personal power. We came to this peak without elections, you didn't even go through an election process to the Supreme

Soviet and you became chairman without being a member."

Mr. Gorbachev asked: "What's the matter? Didn't you want me to be elected?"

"You know my opinion. I don't think there is an alternative to you. But we're not talking about personalities, we're talking about principles. Besides which, you could come under pressure, you could be blackmailed by people who have information against you. Even now they are saying that you took bribes in Stavropol. [Mr. Gorbachev was active in party politics in Stavropol, near the Black Sea, throughout his early career.] They mention 160,000 rubles. If you aren't elected by the people, no one can protect you."

"I am absolutely clean. And I will never give in to blackmail attempts — not from the right, not from the left," Mr. Gorbachev said these words without any visible irritation, firmly.

So ended that meeting. I did not record it right away and now I am writing from memory. It is quite possible that the order was a bit different and that my words are not exact. But Mr. Gorbachev's key formulations, I think, are accurate.

Of course, I have not always had such wide-ranging and frank discussions in my meetings with state leaders. When I talked to such figures as Ronald Reagan, George Bush, George Shultz and Margaret Thatcher, there were many questions about human rights. It looks as if I am sowing the seeds of my own future activity.

Mr. Reagan seemed like a charming man. I tried to talk about "star wars" in the broad aspect of international strategic stability and general prospects of disarmament. I think he some-

how tuned out my arguments. He kept repeating what he always said — that the Strategic Defence Initiative would make the world a safer place.

When I met George Bush in Washington in November last year, he had just been elected president. I talked to him about the importance of America agreeing to the doctrine of refusing to take the first strike. The Soviet Union would then confirm its own previous first-strike refusal in a legal and constitutional manner. This would create much more trust and the conditions for achieving strategic equilibrium in conventional weapons.

Nuclear weapons, which allegedly could be used first if necessary, merely create the illusion of safety. Nuclear war is the suicide of the human race, and no one would dare begin it, for it is clear that this path leads to inevitable escalation and will never be used. But the illusion of nuclear safety through guaranteed destruction has a flip side. The West does not pay enough attention to conventional weapons.

Mr. Bush took a photograph out of his pocket — a family group, people various generations on some cliffs by the sea. He said: "Here's the guarantee that we will never use nuclear weapons first. This is my family, my wife, children and grandchildren. I don't want them to die. No one on earth wants that."

I replied, "But if you insist that you will not strike first, you must make an official announcement of that, put it into the law."

Mr. Bush said nothing — The Washington Post.

# Election day nears in Eastern Europe

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

LONDON — The first free elections in 40 years are looming next year in four East European countries, but few people are ready for them, least of all the Communist parties which have ruled unchallenged until recently.

With authoritarian one-party rule collapsing faster than anyone expected in the East bloc, Communist bureaucrats and unemployed dissidents are having to relearn the rules of a democratic game most had forgotten, if they ever knew it.

Only East Germany has so far fixed polling day: May 6. But elections are expected in Hungary in March, and in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria by June. Party-free elections were held in Poland last June.

This is short notice for the opposition parties, many of them formed only in the last few weeks, which lack structure, organisation, funds, premises, media and even members.

The Communist parties have all these things, but they have little experience of fighting a real

election and are coming apart at the seams as they try to shed their image as Stalinist puppets and convince voters they can offer a democratic option.

Some opposition figures would even like the elections delayed. "It seems the (Communist) party are trying to give us as little time as possible to prepare," says Konstantin Trenchev of the unofficial Bulgarian trade union Podkrepa.

But the general feeling is that time cannot wait and the elections should be held before the authorities change their minds or Moscow, which has given the green light to the changes sweeping through its Warsaw Pact allies, switches signals.

In addition, the East European governments have lost authority or are only caretaker administrations, and new rulers are needed with an electoral mandate to launch policies and attract foreign aid to tackle their countries' economic crises.

This is already happening in Poland, where a government led by the Solidarity movement is in power following a bizarre election six months ago that reflected

the transitional phase Eastern Europe was in at the time.

The election was supposed to guarantee the Communists and their allies a majority in the Sejm (lower house of parliament) by reserving seats for them and allocating a minority to Solidarity.

But the plan misfired. Not only did Solidarity wipe out the Communists 99-1 in the freely contested senate (upper house), but the formerly pro-Communist Peasant and Democratic parties switched over to Solidarity, giving them a majority in the Sejm.

Such parties exist in other East European countries too. Long dismissed as Communists by another name, existing only to give an illusion of pluralism, they are now taking on a bigger role as they come back to life and ditch their former masters.

In East Germany, for instance, there are four of them and their leaders are assuming high offices. Manfred Gerlach of the Liberal Democratic Party has become acting head of state, and Guenther Malenda of the Farmers' Party is parliament speaker.

Nevertheless, these parties are still tarred with the Communist

brush, but the opposition groups are also struggling to find a direction.

The largest, New Forum, has to decide whether to form a party or coalition with other allied groups, and also how to respond to growing cries on the streets for German reunification, something it opposes.

In Czechoslovakia, the opposition grouping Civic Forum, which was only formed on November 18 but has made most of the running in forcing the Communists to accept a minority role in a new government, has decided to field candidates in for the elections.

According to its spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky, its funds total the equivalent of only \$42,000 dollars. But this does not seem to be a fatal obstacle in Eastern Europe at the moment.

The promised vote, however, has been temporarily eclipsed by the question of who will succeed President Gustav Husak, who has resigned, and whether he or she should be elected by parliament or a direct vote.

In Bulgaria it is still unclear whether the opposition umbrella group, Union of Democratic

Forces, will act as a party for next year's elections or whether the nine or so groupings which form it will do so independently.

The groups face the traditional dominance of Communist Party organisations amongst workers but are confident that the party is too unpopular to win.

By contrast in Hungary, where the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) dropped its leading role last February, the opposition has had a comparatively long time to organise.

Unlike in Poland where Solidarity, with nine years of experience, attracted the lion's share of the opposition vote, the Hungarian opposition is splintered into various feuding parties. The largest is the Hungarian Democratic Forum with about 24 per cent support, according to a recent opinion poll.

Despite this the HSWP, which renamed itself the Hungarian

Socialist Party in October but faces a split by hardliners who want to resurrect the old party, has failed to win any of the several by-elections that have taken place this year.

Throughout Eastern Europe, opposition figures radiate confidence that they cannot lose, despite a lack of infrastructure which would doom them in any Western country. All they need to do is get their names on the ballot paper.

The most striking election poster in Poland was a photomontage showing the late American actor Gary Cooper, wearing a cowboy outfit and a Solidarity badge, striding forward with his hand over his holster. The caption was "High noon."

That election day — June 4, 1989 — did indeed turn out to be the day of reckoning for the Communists of Poland and perhaps all of Eastern Europe.

## Mandela inspires South African blacks from his prison cell

CAPE TOWN (R) — Nelson Mandela was unseen and scarcely heard for more than a quarter of a century. But, as the worldwide symbol of opposition to white minority rule, he has dominated the fight for black rights in South Africa.

On Wednesday he left prison to have talks with President F.W. de Klerk in his Cape Town offices, underscoring his increasingly active role in the search for an end to apartheid. Mandela was arrested in 1962. His last public speech was from the dock almost two years later at his trial for sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government.

Calling himself a nationalist, but not a Communist, Mandela said his outlawed African National Congress (ANC) had no option but to fight the violence of apartheid with violence of its own.

"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities," he told the court.

"It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

He has since resisted radical pressure from rival liberation movements, telling an American lawyer in January 1986: "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, whites in South Africa belong here. This is their home.

we want them to live here with us and share power with us." All who have visited him speak of his commanding presence — a lean, gentle, white-haired man who speaks softly and deliberately.

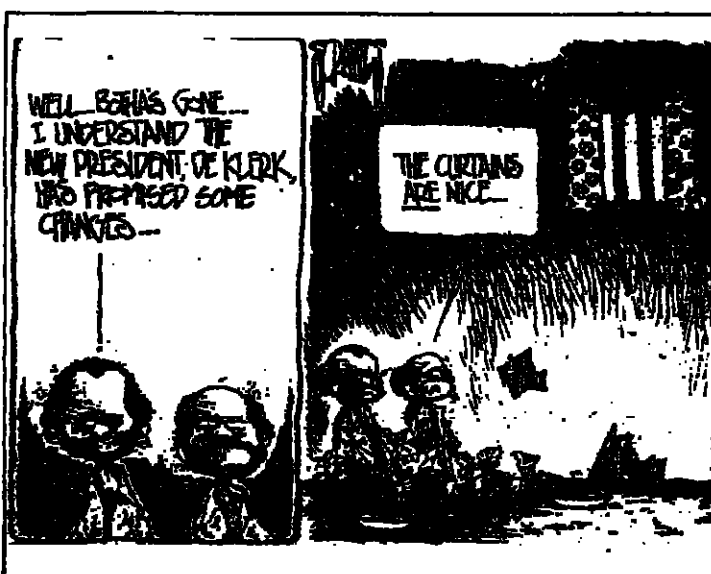
Mandela was jailed for life with seven others on June 12, 1964, and disappeared behind the cold stone walls of Robben Island prison, in Cape Town's Table Bay, where he was forced to break rocks for more than 12 years until his transfer to a mainland jail.

He has refused to bargain for his own release, rejected offers of liberty in exile and shored up the faith of his people through two rebellions against white rule just by being there.

On Robben Island, in Cape Town's modern Pollsmoor prison and latterly alone in a luxury prison bungalow, complete with swimming pool, among the vineyards of Paarl, his influence has been undiminished through what he was called "these long, lonely, wasted years."

Township revolutionaries and moderate black leaders invoke his name in heroic terms. Moderate whites see him as the only person who could prevent bloody civil war. Streets and squares are named in his honour around the world and he has been showered with peace prizes and honorary degrees.

The campaign for his release rose to an international clamour when he marked his 70th birthday on July 18, 1988, a month before he was transferred to hospital



with tuberculosis. For 25 years he was allowed no more than two 40-minute visits a month from his family and although restrictions were eased when he was moved to his bungalow he was told friends he is lonelier there than ever before. His transfer to Paarl's Victor Verster prison was widely seen as a prelude to release and when he gambled his reputation with a first visit to the presidential offices in July 1989 for a 45-minute tea party with his arch enemy, former President F.W. Botha, it seemed sure he would soon be free.

Shortly after assuming the presidency two months later de Klerk ordered the release of Mandela's co-accused. Mandela is credited with helping them to liberty during meetings in prison with Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee.

For his own part, Mandela has always insisted on unconditional release, consistently refusing to repudiate as the price of liberty the ANC guerrilla war against

white rule. On Wednesday his discussions with de Klerk covered "ways and means to address current obstacles in the way of meaningful dialogue," an official statement said.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in a mud hut in the Transkei in Eastern Cape province on July 18, 1918, the son of a Xhosa chief, and was educated at Fort Hare, a college for blacks, where he obtained an arts degree. He went to Johannesburg to study law while working as a gold mine security guard and then as an estate agent. In 1952 he set up South Africa's first black law practice with Oliver Tambo, now the ANC leader-in-exile.

In 1956, he was one of more than 200 suspects rounded up and put on trial for treason. After a four-year trial he and a number of other black leaders were acquitted.

The ANC was banned in 1960 and Mandela became a fugitive from the police before being betrayed and caught in 1962.

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Incorruptibles; Lethal  
Dismanche 17 : Honeye  
Over blood; Foul  
Samedi 18 : (P)NC; S  
White of the high; Str  
Mardi 19 : Birden  
ground; Salsa; Dirty d  
winterfall.

**Mercredi 20 :** Uninv  
Cold swindle; Franti  
Jeudi 21 : With an eng

Costi SWAGUE; rjmsoc. J & V, "Vendicando" 20 December 11 1723  
Jeddi 21 : With an angst; Sworn to silence; (transient episode).



## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## East, West German stars to team cup

EAST BERLIN (R) — Soccer stars from East and West Germany will team up next year to play a benefit match against a "World 11" in Dresden.

The Communist party daily Neues Deutschland said on Friday the proceeds from the game, to be played on March 26 in

Dynamo Dresden's stadium, would help renovate the city's castle, virtually destroyed in World War II bombing.

Neues Deutschland did not name any of the players who would take part but said the organisers were seeking big names.

## U.S. pulls out of friendly

ROME (R) — The United States have withdrawn from a planned soccer friendly against World Cup hosts Italy after they were drawn to play them in next year's finals.

The Italian Soccer Federation said Friday the U.S. Soccer Federation (USFF) had asked for the match, scheduled for March 28, to be put back to after the tournament.

The United States, the 1994 World Cup hosts, came out in the same first round group as Italy at last week's draw for the 1990 finals. They will play Italy at Rome's Olympic stadium on June 14.

The Italian federation said it would decide in the next few days whether to find another team for the friendly or cancel the fixture entirely.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### IT CUTS BOTH WAYS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 6 4 2  
♥ A 10 7 5  
♦ K Q 4  
♣ A J 10

WEST EAST  
♠ K Q 10 8 ♠ 9 7 3  
♥ 9 6 2 ♥ 8  
♦ 9 7 5 2 ♦ A 10 8 3  
♣ 5 3 ♣ K 9 8 6 2

SOUTH  
♠ A 7 5  
♥ K Q J 4 3  
♦ J 6  
♣ Q 7 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠  
Once upon a time, war might have been a question of getting there "faster" with the "moose." These days, there are ways of deflecting an army from its course.

The bidding was straight out of an old Goren textbook. North's jump raise showed the equivalent of an opening bid with four-card support, and South had no ambitions beyond game.

After West leads the king of spades, the defenders are there first. Their attack has targeted on declarer's weak spot. If declarer goes in with the ace, when East gets in with the ace of diamonds, a spade continuation nets the defenders two spade tricks and one trick in each minor suit.

Declarer can blunt the enemy attack by refusing to win the first trick with the ace of spades. Now West cannot profitably continue with a spade, for that will give declarer two tricks in the suit. But shifting the attack to a club costs a tempo, and now declarer has the upper hand.

However, South must be careful not to surrender his advantage to the enemy. To take a finesse would do just that if East holds the king. To keep a step ahead, declarer must rise with the ace of clubs, draw trumps and then force out the ace of diamonds. Now the defenders are helpless. Declarer wins the spade shift with the ace and discards a spade on dummy's high diamond, using a trump as an entry, if necessary. That holds East-West to one trick in each side suit, and the contract is just home.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A day when you can expect to feel like you are standing still or repeating experiences that you have already known. Don't allow the confusions of others to deter your progress.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A new friendship from afar is the best means now to add to your social group. Changes in persons coming into your home should not be resented.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Friends will be in your home today who bring many pleasant hours. You can enjoy social events with both men and women friends today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get attachment to accept an invitation with you and go to an outside interesting event. Be alert to accepting more younger persons into your home.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A very good day for you to get off on a trip to visit with an understanding friend. This is the day to be practical.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Don't accept just yet an outside associate who wishes to become a member of your intimate social group. Make sure you are very aware of any outside amusements to see.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Public and patriotic events are those which can bring you and your friends the greatest amount of pleasure. Don't be confused by something your mate does.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your intuitions are, at least,

just right on how conditions can best be handled at your home. Get highly specialized knowledge to do at business.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't upset those at home by insisting that a friend be entertained there now. This is the day to be very happy with your mate.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) New confidence from close companions require complete secrecy on your part. Sightseeing or jaunts visiting close companions can please your mate.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can take members of your own clan with to entertainments with good friends. You see, at last, the best means with which to increase your assets.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can now invite the persons you want to see in your own home and have a happy time. Avoid trying to tell your mate what to do at all or have trouble.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get ready for some very interesting invitations from people you have known for some time. Being more emotional with mate brings good results.

**Today's child:** If your child were born today he or she will have a special ability to organize large public events or affairs that require the overview of many talents. They will be the individual that others turn to in case of an emergency or where solid decision making is required.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## Row over track team continues

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — A possible boycott of next month's Auckland Commonwealth games was being considered as a dispute over the size of the Australian track and field team continued, Athletics Australia President David Prince said Friday.

Prince reaffirmed his organization's refusal to meet a demand from the Australian Common-

wealth Games Association (ACGA) to cut 15 athletes from the 85 chosen team to compete in New Zealand.

"We have no intention of changing the team. As far as athletics Australia is concerned the team will stay at 85, Prince said.

The ACGA has demanded Athletics Australia trim the team to 70 athletes — the number the

organisation estimated last May would be going to Auckland — but had admitted there are no financial or logistical reasons why the team should be cut.

Anger at the ACGA grew Friday and Prince said his organisation planned a detailed statement early next week after "seeking

certain facts and information." Athletics Australia is believed to have asked its legal advisers for a full summary on its legal position in the event that battle ends up in the courts.

Prince said he could not rule out the possibility of a boycott.

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## To the Brazilian community in Jordan

All Brazilian citizens who had been registered to vote in the presidential elections are requested to report to the Brazilian Embassy on Sunday, December 17, from 08:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. to cast their votes for the second round.

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## THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

**ACROSS**  
1 Best hit  
6 On the briny  
10 Checker game  
14 Defense  
15 Droop lady  
16 Last word  
17 Unusual  
18 AZ city  
20 Color  
21 Ganglia —  
23 George and T.S.  
24 Wound mark  
25 Sharp  
26 Famed frontiersman  
30 S.A. rodent  
33 In a circle  
34 Nimble  
36 Residue  
38 Color  
39 Senior  
41 Before pref.  
42 Founded: abbr.  
43 Spoken  
44 Bony  
46 Unguine  
48 C.K. Corral  
49 participant  
50 Stumpy  
52 Afterwards  
53 Pencil and  
56 Sp. painter  
57 — king  
60 Sh-shooter  
62 Lorenzo or  
63 Fernando  
64 matter  
65 Site of Cork  
66 Looy  
67 Fr. city  
68 Title  
69 Jackrabbits

**DOWN**  
1 Gilt  
2 Salute  
3 Split  
4 7½ Vigoda  
5 Baby barn  
6 Pieces of  
7 In a while  
8 Shade tree  
9 "Zoo Story" author  
10 Green  
11 Melville title  
12 Ash  
13 Wednesday  
14 Single  
15 Napped  
16 More solid  
17 Jackrabbit's tail  
18 Messengers at  
19 Wounded  
20 "Use Me, —"  
21 South Bend team  
22 Silverheels  
23 role  
24 In a strange way  
25 City of Crete  
26 — "Is Born"  
27 Insubstantial  
28 Asslet  
29 Sward  
30 Solar disc  
31 Frequently  
32 Furdiness  
33 City of Crete  
34 "Is Born"  
35 Insubstantial  
36 Asslet  
37 Sward  
38 Bullets  
39 Skirt insert  
40 Manchurian  
41 rher  
42 Ribbon  
43 Make quarts  
44 Blind  
45 Paragonian

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**TAI-PAN**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144  
**TWO MOON JUNCTION**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOUR** Tel: 675571  
**Nadia Al Jundi  
In  
TERRORISM  
(Arabic)**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111  
**Clint Eastwood  
in  
DEAD POOL**  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



# U.N. issues landmark declaration on S. Africa

By Peter James Spielmann  
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The General Assembly, speaking with one voice, has unanimously condemned South Africa's apartheid system as "a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind" and demanded its abolition.

For the first time in the U.N.'s history, black African nations reached a compromise with the United States and Britain on the subject of apartheid, adopting the declaration by consensus Thursday.

The delegates then stood for a moment of silent meditation at the close of the three-day special session on apartheid.

"A declaration, however solemn and however unanimous, will not itself help the people of South Africa in their efforts to create a new and non-racial society," said the assembly's president, Joseph Garba of Nigeria.

"But it will lend tremendous power to our arguments henceforth when addressing proponents of apartheid, whether inside or outside South Africa." To win U.S. and British support, the Africans diluted a statement proposed by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

They abandoned the OAU's demand for increased sanctions

against South Africa and its call for an interim government during the transition to a non-racial democracy.

Instead, the declaration raises the possibility of lifting trade embargoes if Pretoria begins repealing apartheid within six months.

The declaration pledges that the world community will "not relax existing measures aimed at encouraging the South African regime to eradicate apartheid, until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes."

It then asks Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to report by July 1 on South Africa's progress in abolishing apartheid.

Delegates from 118 nations, including presidents Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, castigated South Africa's racial segregation policies during three days of debate.

The Security Council has a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa, and the General Assembly has called on all nations to voluntarily isolate the country economically, socially, culturally and in the sporting world.

The United States and Britain have always used their veto power in the Security Council to block more sweeping mandatory

sanctions to isolate South Africa.

Washington and London contend that ostracising South Africa merely makes it more recalcitrant, and say economic sanctions hurt the black majority more than the white minority.

Numerous diplomats said the time was right for a consensus document because South Africa's new President F.W. de Klerk, appears ready to begin dismantling apartheid.

De Klerk, who came to power this year, says he wants a new constitution within five years that will bring blacks into the national government.

However, he has made clear he opposes black majority rule and a one-man, one-vote system, and envisions a system in which whites would have veto power on major policy decisions. He has vowed to end apartheid and has implemented some limited reforms.

The assembly's declaration calls on blacks and whites to open negotiations to achieve a "non-racial and democratic society in South Africa" by peaceful means.

The fundamental principles of the "new South Africa" would be that all people would enjoy equal citizenship, and would have the right to participate in government and form non-racial political parties.



Moments before police arrived to collect Vietnamese refugees against their will to repatriate them back to Vietnam Tuesday two refugees shout and cry out of their temporary home in Hong Kong.

## Boat people flight delayed

HONG KONG (R) — Plans for the forced repatriation of a second planeload of Vietnamese boat people before Christmas have been delayed, for logistical reasons and because Hanoi wants to assess the impact of the first flight, a senior British official said Friday.

Britain and Hong Kong triggered a storm of world criticism Tuesday by sending 51 men, women and children back to Vietnam in the middle of the night under a virtual news blackout.

On Friday, boat people in Hong Kong's camps staged further protests against deportation, with thousands of asylum seekers marching, chanting and waving banners.

At one camp an effigy of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was burned in protest, although a government spokesman said the demonstrations

were orderly.

At the newly-built High Island camp in Hong Kong's New Territories, a group of 600 boat people were staging a sit-in protest.

The British official told Reuters: "The planned flight before Christmas has been delayed, partly because the Vietnamese want to assess things and partly because of the need to get the whole thing set up and arranged. But there is no problem. Each flighting is to be discussed and arranged separately — the Vietnamese need to know who is going to be on the flight, when it is coming and so forth, which is quite normal."

The official said he also believed London wanted to wait until two British envoys, Labour peer Lord Ennals and former Conservative minister Timothy Raison, arrived in Hanoi in the new year.

They have been sent by the government to help the three-man British embassy monitor Vietnamese pledges that those returned against their will would be treated humanely and not persecuted.

The official denied that the flight had been delayed because of worldwide condemnation of the deportations.

Hong Kong officials are studying various options to continue the deportation of those Vietnamese boat people screened out as illegal immigrants.

Civil aviation sources said Cathay Pacific Airways, which provided the Lockheed TriStar used in Tuesday's flight, had been asked to provide several more aircraft.

But once the programme is under way, government officials are expected to switch to ships to take larger numbers back.

At present there are just under 57,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong, of whom only 14,000 presently qualify as refugees under United Nations criteria, having arrived before screening was introduced in June last year.

Of the remaining 43,000, some 6,500 have been screened so far and only 400 screened in as refugees.

The official said he expected a more satisfactory monitoring arrangement for those who have been returned would be devised after a meeting in Geneva Jan. 18.

The meeting, which groups Western powers and Asian states who have been on the receiving end of the boat people exodus as well as Vietnam and international groups such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) — will review the situation.

## Aquino intelligence chief sees coup threats alive

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino's intelligence chief has warned she could face another coup attempt within six months, and two thirds of the Philippines armed forces would remain neutral during the mutiny.

Rodolfo Canieso, director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), also told a senate subcommittee he feared serious trouble in the southern island of Mindanao where rebel troops were linking up with secessionist organisations.

Details of the closed-door session were published in Philippine newspapers on Friday.

Canieso, a former army chief, said in any future coup attempt he anticipated 60 to 70 per cent of the armed forces would remain neutral, backing the side which eventually emerged victorious.

The remaining 30 per cent of

the 165,000-strong military would be divided between those with links to the right-wing rebels and government supporters, he said.

Aquino, swept to power in a popular revolt against strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, survived the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her this month. But rebel leaders have said they will try again.

Aquino has said only two per cent of the armed forces took part in the Dec. 1-7 mutiny in which more than 100 people died and 600 were wounded. The government admits many of the rebels are still at large.

Cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan said in a letter published in a Manila newspaper Thursday the rebels could launch "phase II" of their coup shortly.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel told reporters he believed this could be an attempt to form a separatist government on the southern is-

land of Mindanao.

Security was stepped up outside the diplomatic missions after grenades exploded at the house of a U.S. diplomat and inside a U.S. embassy housing complex Thursday, the day after Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned the rebels may launch terrorist attacks in Manila.

No Americans were hurt in the attacks, but a Filipino carpenter was wounded by shrapnel.

A government council has recommended moving military camps in Manila outside the capital to help prevent further coups.

The camps were the focus of fighting in his month's attempted coup and one in August 1987.

Congressman Jose de Venecia, a member of the joint executive-legislative panel, said in a statement the facilities should be relocated next to the U.S. Clark Air Base.

## Key Recruit scandal figures deny charges

TOKYO (Agencies) — Hiromasa Ezoe, the former chairman of Recruit Company and the alleged mastermind behind the biggest political scandal to rock post-war Japan, pleaded not guilty to bribery charges Friday.

Ezoe and former Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami told the Tokyo district court that the cut-rate shares in a subsidiary of Recruit that passed between them were not intended as bribes.

"I never distributed bribes to any of the defendants," a feeble-looking Ezoe told the court.

Ezoe was under investigation for 99-days earlier in the year but was freed on bail after questioning.

"I was forced to make the confessions under duress and am still going through torture now. (During questioning) I had tears flowing down and I felt I was going crazy," he said.

Fujinami, the right-hand man of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, denied he had favoured Recruit by pushing to keep a government-decreed ban on pre-graduation employment of college seniors — an arrangement that benefited Recruit's business in job placement information and magazines.

"I have never made any effort to do so under influence of these so-called bribes," Fujinami said.

He has now left the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but retains his seat in parliament, just like his boss, Nakasone.

"I severely regret this trial as one who served in an important post in the Nakasone government," he added. "I deny all charges."

Also denying bribery charges Friday were Toshiro Ono, an executive of Recruit, the information conglomerate Ezoe founded, and Katsuya Ikeda of the opposition Komeito (Clean Government) party.

If convicted, the defendants

would be sentenced to five years in prison.

Their trial is the last of five, which began Nov. 22 in Tokyo district court and will last for months as the legal system delves into allegations of corruption in the cozy relations between Japanese government and business.

The Recruit scandal began in the summer of 1988 and brought down Takeshita, who resigned last spring after acknowledging he received large donations from the company.

Other key figures in the governing LDP have been sidelined by the scandal and the honesty of ranking bureaucrats has been questioned because of gifts they accepted from Recruit.

The other trials involve six bureaucrats and two other Recruit executives.

Prosecutors must show the point at which a gift becomes a bribe. Japanese law says bribery occurs when a public official or politician receives money or valuable from people or companies the official is in a position to supervise.

Recruit offered millions of discount shares in Recruit-Cosmos to hundreds of politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen before the stocks were available to the general public.

When it was offered on the over-the-counter market, the price of the stock shot up and the insiders made large profits. Fujinami's shares were said to have gained him 30 million yen (\$215,000).

On Wednesday, the former chairman of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Hishashi Shinto, 79, acknowledged he made about 21 million yen (\$145,000) in 1986 on Recruit-Cosmos shares. But he denied favouring Recruit with special treatment when it entered the telecommunications market.

## Christian Democrat wins Chile presidency

SANTIAGO (R) — Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin comfortably won Thursday's Chilean elections which brought down the curtain on General Augusto Pinochet, the last of Latin America's old-style military rulers.

Preliminary official results early Friday morning gave Aylwin 55.2 per cent of the popular vote — the highest margin won by any Chilean president this century.

Former Finance Minister Hernan Buchi polled 29.4 per cent and millionaire businessman Francisco Javier Errazuriz 15.3.

As thousands of people poured into the streets in celebration, Aylwin told a huge crowd of supporters in a central square that what Chile now needed was mutual understanding to build a solid democracy.

"Once again, the people of Chile have taken their destiny in their own hands," the 71-year-old veteran politician said.

"I want to be president of all Chileans, and for this I need the support of all."

But in what could be an indication that the bitter divisions created by 16 years of Pinochet's iron rule will be difficult to bridge, the government statement acknowledging his victory was conspicuously void of any word of congratulation.

Instead, Interior Minister Carlos Caceres lauded the achievements of Pinochet's rule which, he said, had laid solid economic and political foundations for the new democracy.

Aylwin needed 51 per cent to avoid a second-round run-off against Buchi, the architect of the unfettered free market policies which won international praise for Chile but have failed to solve the country's serious social problems.

The new president, who is also a lawyer, is to take office March 11 for a four-year term. Pinochet will step down on that day at the

end of a process that began last year when he held a plebiscite he was confident of winning.

Instead, Chileans rebuffed his bid for another eight years in power and forced him to hold elections under a constitutional time-table he had set himself.

It excluded him from standing as a candidate in the elections, the first genuine ballot since 1970 when Salvador Allende became the world's only freely-elected Marxist president.

Pinochet overthrew him in 1973 and unleashed a wave of repression against the left. At least 1,500 people were killed, hundreds disappeared, and torture became a standard instrument of interrogation.

The elections capped a decade of unprecedented democratic advances in Latin America, where democratic governments have replaced right-wing military rulers in 12 countries since 1979.

Despite the euphoria of the election celebrations, Aylwin acknowledged that Chile still has a long way to go before shaking off the legacy of the military.

The constitution he inherits from Pinochet has several clauses that limit democracy.

To make constitutional amendments, the 17-party coalition which fielded Aylwin as its candidate would need a solid parliamentary majority.

A large majority would be essential "to untie the knots with which they (the military) are trying to bind us," Aylwin said Thursday.

Aylwin has promised to leave the old regime's conservative economic policies intact but boost social spending.

He has also made it clear he does not plan a head-on confrontation with the 125,000-strong armed forces, still a formidable power in Chilean politics, over human rights abuses blamed on the military.

## China pursues secret efforts to begin talks with Dalai Lama

PEKING (R) — Despite fierce public denunciations of Tibet's Dalai Lama, China is quietly pursuing efforts to hold its first talks with the exiled spiritual leader in more than 30 years, diplomats said Friday.

China has intensified its attacks since the 54-year-old Buddhist priest won the Nobel Peace Prize in October and has tightened security in Lhasa, the regional capital, which has been under martial law since anti-Chinese protests in March.

Despite this, diplomats said, China had not closed the door on the possibility of holding talks with the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed revolt against Chinese rule.

A key figure in China's dual-track diplomacy on Tibet is an elderly Chinese academic, Professor Wang Yao, who told Reuters he had been keeping contacts alive with members of the Dalai Lama's "government-in-exile."

"I respect the Dalai Lama. He is a clever and wise man," Wang said at his Peking home.

Wang, who described himself as an adviser to the Chinese

government acting as a go-between, said he met the Dalai Lama's information officers, Lodi Gyari, in Sweden last month.

The Dalai Lama's representatives in London and Washington and his Dutch legal adviser, Michael van Walt van Praag, also took part in their discussions, Wang said.

A speaker of Tibetan who lived there for 13 years, Wang described some of the Dalai Lama's followers as his "good friends."

"I hope the problems of Tibet will be resolved by the central government and the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people. I hope the West will help us to push relations between the Dalai Lama and the central government nearer and nearer," he added.

The Dalai Lama's 1988 Strasbourg speech in which he gave up the idea of complete independence for Tibet could form the basis of negotiations, Wang said.

A sticking point in the past had been China's insistence that the Dalai Lama live in Peking if he returned but Wang said this condition had been dropped.

The Dalai Lama said living in the Chinese capital would be like

being in a "soft prison."

China's claims to have ruled Tibet since the Mongols held sway over the Himalayan region more than 700 years ago. Communist troops enforced Chinese rule in the 1950s and security forces have crushed several pro-independence demonstrations in Lhasa over the past two years.

Wang was hopeful the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama would give impetus towards the search for talks.

The two sides had still not agreed on where and when to meet, who would take part and using what title, Wang said.

The Dalai Lama's "government-in-exile," based in Dharmasala in northern India, is not recognised by any country and China refuses to have official contact with it. China also insists that the Dalai Lama's Dutch adviser be barred from talks.

One Western diplomat who closely follows events in Tibet said he doubted that China was genuinely interested in having the Dalai Lama return to Tibet, where he is worshipped fervently by most of the two million or so Tibetans there.

## NATO clears way for arms treaty, welcomes Shevardnadze

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), recently criticised for failing to respond to the dynamic changes in the East, has smoothed the way to a conventional arms treaty and agreed to open its doors to a Warsaw Pact minister for the first time.

The alliance's 16 foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels Thursday, agreed to a request by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to visit their headquarters and hold talks with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner next week.

The ministers also set aside

an embarrassing Greek-Turkish row that had delayed the tabling of a Western treaty proposal in Vienna talks on cutting troops and military hardware.

The draft was tabled later Thursday at the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) negotiations, a few hours after the Warsaw Pact put forward its own.

Prospects now seem good that NATO can achieve its goal of next year for signing a treaty which would cut U.S. and Soviet troops in Europe to 275,000 each and scrap huge numbers of tanks, vehicles, artillery pieces and aircraft.

Shevardnadze's visit is another sign of extraordinary

times that have seen the death of rigid, old-style communism in most East European states.

No Warsaw Pact minister has ever entered NATO headquarters and until recently the idea would have been dismissed as absurd.

It was not known why Shevardnadze proposed the NATO visit. He is due to meet European Community (EC) Foreign ministers in Brussels next Monday.

But NATO is bound to make the best public use of his visit.

Increasingly deprived of the perceived military threat that brought it into existence 40 years ago, the Western alliance is seeking a more political role

and the chance to help shape the future institutions of Europe.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed changes along these lines earlier this week and officials said his initiative received a warm response on the first day of the two-day foreign ministers' meeting.

But since it has no supranational powers, NATO relies on consensus for its decisions and has been criticised for rigidity and an inability to move with the times.

NATO diplomats said it was not immediately clear whether the Woerner-Shevardnadze talks would have a fixed agenda. "The visit has an obvious

symbolic importance though," said one diplomat.

Another diplomat, asked whether the talks would be of a symbolic or practical nature, replied: "When you go to bed with a girl for the first time, is it symbolic or practical?"

The foreign ministers, at their first meeting since the Berlin Wall was breached last month, spent much of Thursday debating the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and the role NATO has to play in providing a stable platform for change.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher reassured the allies that his country had no intention of demanding changes in its post-World War II borders.

The growing debate over German reunification has caused some NATO allies to worry that Central Europe could be destabilised. The two German states form the frontline of both military blocs.

The ministers cleared the way for the tabling of the conventional forces draft by agreeing to set aside the Greek-Turkish dispute over the port of Mersin, used by Turkey to reinforce the self-proclaimed independent Turkish enclave of northern Cyprus.

Greece wanted the port included in the area for arms reductions. Turkey wanted it left out.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said the row had

not been settled but both Greece and Turkey had agreed to drop the matter for now so that the draft treaty could be tabled on behalf of all NATO members.

U.S. officials said the ministers had also made considerable progress of forging a joint NATO position on an "open skies" treaty, which would regulate the right of countries to send military flights over each others' territories.

Foreign ministers from NATO and the seven members of the Warsaw Pact are scheduled to meet in Ottawa in February to discuss the treaty and are also expected to discuss further progress in CFE negotiations.

## COLUMN

### Dogs 'eat' man

DULZURA, California (AP) — A man who complained to police that he was attacked by dogs has been mauled to death, apparently by the same animals, authorities said. "He appeared to have been eaten alive. That's the only way to describe it," said Dill Delaney, a ranch caretaker who discovered the body. Ray Johnson, 69, was found dead Tuesday on a road near a ranch where the mixed-breed dogs lived. Johnson frequently walked nearly 13 kilometres from his house to another ranch where he tended dogs and cattle. If the dogs were responsible for Johnson's death, criminal charges could be brought against their owner, authorities said. John Slough, an off-duty San Diego police officer who lives nearby, heard "one hellacious dog fight" Tuesday morning and went to investigate, said San Diego police investigator Pete Solomonsen, who is married to a niece of Johnson. When Slough arrived, two dogs attacked and he shot one to death and wounded another, authorities said. Animal control officers impounded at least six dogs from the ranch. Solomonsen said he signed a complaint a few months ago charging Johnson had been attacked by the dogs. Last week, he said, Johnson showed him bite marks on his legs and a pair of jeans he said were torn by the dogs.

### Robbers net 3 billion lire

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — At least eight men robbed an Italian security van on the outskirts of Florence Thursday and escaped with three billion lire (\$2.3 million). A police spokesman said the robbers shot at the van driver, who crashed while trying to evade the ambush. He was rushed to hospital in a serious condition. Three guards inside the van were threatened with automatic rifles but were not harmed. Two stolen cars used in the robbery were later found abandoned at a motorway service station northwest of Florence.

### New theory on dinosaurs

WASHINGTON (R) — New fossil finds suggest that the reptilian ancestors of modern mammals roamed the entire earth some 225 million years ago, the National Geographic Society said Thursday. "These very advanced mammal-like reptiles appear to have roamed all over the globe," Hans-Dieter Sues, a Smithsonian Institution paleobiologist, told Reuters. The society based its conclusion on a newly discovered collection of fossils uncovered at a wooded site near Richmond, Virginia. The most interesting find so far has been 11 jawbones from the closest known reptilian ancestors of mammals, a tiny dinosaur known as the Cynodont. Discovery of the fossilised remains solves a longstanding mystery because previous Cynodont finds have been confined principally to the Southern Hemisphere, including sites in South America, China and South Africa. When the Cynodont lives 225 million years ago, earth had only one continent, known as Pangaea, but scientists have never been able to determine why there was no evidence of the Cynodont had wandered into areas now found in the Northern Hemisphere. The Virginia site has also yielded the fossilised remains of some 200 different prehistoric creatures, including lizards and at least one previously unknown heavily armoured species with big bony backplates and large rigid spines.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	03	17	41 Windy
ATHENS	05	41	47 Clear
BAHRAIN	15	61	23 Cloudy
BANGKOK	20	66	80 Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	20	66	81 Cloudy
CAIRO	13	55	16 Cloudy
CHICAGO	05	41	23 Rain
COPENHAGEN	05	23	37 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	00	32	01 Rain
GENEVA	-04	25	45 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	24	72 Clear
ISTANBUL	01	34	06 Clear
LONDON	04	29	57 Rain
LOS ANGELES	07	45	22 Clear
MADRID	08	46	12 54 Rain
MECCA	18	66	01 Clear
MONTREAL	-17	01	12 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-10	14	29 Clear
NEW DELHI	04	28	10 Clear
NEW YORK	-01	31	01 Clear
PARIS	03	37	13 Cloudy
ROME	08	43	11 Clear
STOENY	19	66	29 Cloudy
TOKYO	04	28	10 Clear
VIENNA	-02	28	01 Clear